

a second process of removing a part of said deposit deposited onto the surface of said material to be marked by irradiating with a second laser beam while scanning with the second laser beam;

wherein patterns of characters, diagrams or symbols are formed on said material to be marked;

wherein the deposit caused to degenerate by irradiation by said second laser beam is changed in color by heating; and

wherein said desired gap is between  $2\mu\text{m}$  and  $200\mu\text{m}$ .

2. (Twice Amended) A method for marking materials according to claim 1, wherein power of the first laser beam is greater per unit area than power of the second laser beam.

3. (Twice Amended) A method for marking materials according to claim 1, wherein the deposit is subject to direct irradiation in the second process without passing the second laser beam through the materials to be marked.

Please cancel Claim 4 without prejudice.

5. (Twice Amended) A method for marking materials, in which marking material and material to be marked consist of a light transparent body or a laser transmittive body, said method comprising the steps of:

forming patterns of characters, diagrams or symbols on said material to be marked by placing a surface of said material to be marked and a surface of said marking material together with a desired gap therebetween;

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vaporizing said marking material by irradiating through said material to be marked with a laser beam while scanning with the laser beam; and

depositing a deposit vaporized from said marking material onto a predetermined portion of the material to be marked;

wherein said patterns of characters, diagrams or symbols are formed by reacting gas existing in said desired gap with the vaporized marking material due to evaporation of said marking material by said laser beam and a reaction product deposited onto the predetermined portion of the material to be marked; and

wherein said desired gap is between  $2\mu\text{m}$  and  $200\mu\text{m}$ .

Please cancel Claim 7 without prejudice.

Sub 7  
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10. (Twice Amended) A marking material of claim 9, wherein a thin film formed on the surface of the material to be marked is of a thickness of  $10\mu\text{m}$  or less.

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13. (Twice Amended) A marking material according to claim 11, wherein the marking material is a thin film formed on the surface of the material to be marked.

#### REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-7 and 9-25 are active in this application. By this Amendment, the applicants amend Claims 1-3, 5, 10 and 13, cancel Claims 4 and 7, and leave Claims 6, 9, 11, 12 and 14-15 unamended. Thus, 22 claims remain in this application for reconsideration.